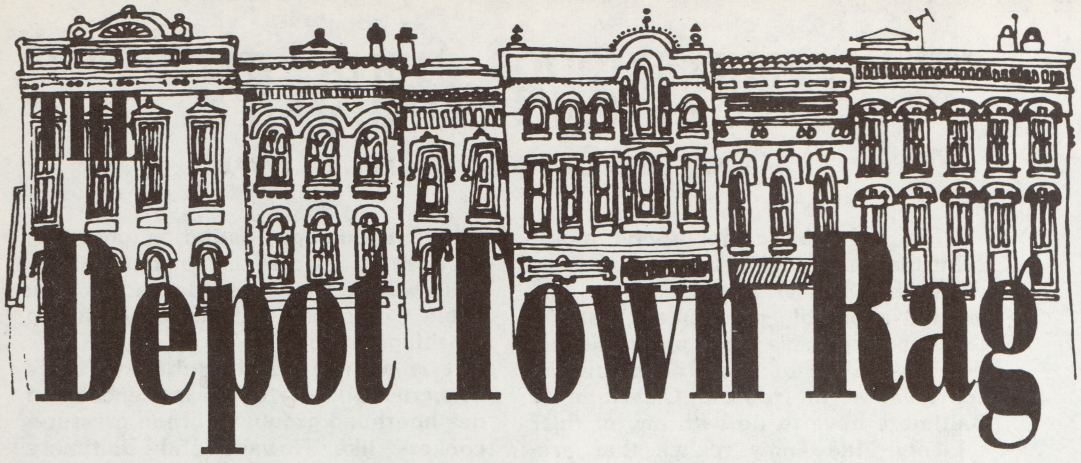


Depot Town Rag

2/1984

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

FEBRUARY 1984 MEETINGS
Merchants - 7:30 Feb. 9
Association -7:30 Feb. 16
Foundation - 8:00 Feb. 23
...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND YOURSELF RUNNING A BUSINESS IN AN OLD NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE SOMEONE KNOCKS THE BRIDGE DOWN AND SOME OF YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN'T FIND YOU FOR AT LEAST HALF A YEAR:

Columa A:
* Take a trip to the Carribean and don't come back until things bet better.
* Don't open up until noon, then take a long lunch break and then close up early.
* Leave your Christmas decorations up and pretend you didn't notice the calendar change.
* Lay off all your employees, pay workmen's compensation and raise mushrooms in the basement.
* Think negatively and tell everyone how rotten the world has been to you.

OR.....choose from
Column B:
* Use the 'down time' to decorate and reorganize the shop.
* Join with other merchants in neighborhood promotions.
* Put new demands upon your business mailing list of previous loyal customers.
* Add new directions (or even a map) to your advertising.
* Plan an invitation-only open house for preferred clientele.
* Reward your regulars for taking advantage of a unique period in Depot Town's history.
* Plan for a gala re-renaissance in July, and welcome-back party at the August Heritage Festival.
* With absence of 'through' traffic, use the street to new advantage.

HEALTH EMPORIUM Develops "Second Front"

Continued reconstruction of the rear, north wall of the Follett House now includes another glass door-wall for a second floor apartment, as well as an up-to-date second entrance and two more display windows for the HEALTH EMPORIUM. Peek under construction shed and you'll see much the same activity about to happen at the rear of J & J PLASTERCRAFT SHOP. AUBREE'S and PRONTO PIZZA started the two-way orientation and, before long, much of our North side of the street will be open for business front and back.

SOFT TOUCH AT HON'S

Joe Wizauer has just installed new, brown carpeting in his flower shop salesroom and added practical, but not too expensive, storm windows to his north-facing show windows. We are used to seeing great displays there, but give it a closer inspection for practicality. Good idea, Joe.

PHANTOM Sold, BIG BOB Takes Over

Tony Brown managed Jim Weston's PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC when Jim opened a new outlet in Pittsburg. Now Tony is finalizing the purchase of the comic store and will change the interior design, the lighting and the signage. Adding to the district's complex and obtuse collection of the business names, Tony will mystify us all with the new one: watch for "BIG BOB'S MAGAZINE AND FANTASY EMPORIUM" at 50 East Cross Street.

COUNCIL STALLS D.D.A.

At least 15 Depot Towners sat in City Council chambers on January 9th and saw their proposal for a Downtown Development Authority shuffled about on the agenda to accomodate the exit of yet another City Manager. Almost six hours after the start of the meeting, the "open public hearing" was finally held and the benefit of such a formation was testified to by our block's perennial politicos. Testimony was heard or read from residential property owners and from Gillentine's Upholstery and Ted's Auto Electric requesting to be deleted from the boundaries of the proposed district.

Ironically, several tenants of one of the underdeveloped properties of the block had submitted letters to their landlord-/councilmember mistakenly complaining of a "tax increase", but they were not presented in the open public hearing.

Council finally buckled under the import of the evening's issues and, using language most common to song writers ("due to the lateness of the hour"!) tabled the flow of action to a later, unspecified, date.

The accepted procedure for passage of such local legislation is to hold the public hearing on the boundaries of the district and then decide upon the boundaries. We still await their decision on the basis of testimony in the public hearings.

The February 6th Council meeting may see our municipal policy-makers resume their decision-making process on Depot Town's request for a DDA. Bring a book to read.

Happy Valentines Day

CITY NEIGHBORHOODS HOLD STREETWISE LESSONS FOR SUBURBANITES

(from PRESERVATION NEWS, January 1984)

What does the neighborhood movement matter to people who don't live in older cities? Most Americans are still worried about big government, soaring taxes and expensive public programs that don't work. What does neighborhood conservation in Newark, Cleveland or Baltimore have to do with any of this?

Plenty! Many now realize that problems long associated with inner-cities have reached close-in suburbs and rural towns: blight, crime, deteriorating housing and the destruction of small business strips.

Things are not going well in the distant suburbs either. The absence of focused and coherent planning and the proliferation of weak local governments-enabling vested interests to dominate land use and housing policies-have contributed to suburban sprawl. The symptoms include eecological deterioration, duplication of services and escalating taxes to pay for spread-out utilities and roads.

One study shows that 'high-density" developments like rowhouses and urban apartments use only half the roads, sewer and utility pipes and energy while generating 45 percent less pollution than areas of "low-density" single-family freestanding homes. It's no accident that the most dramatic taxpayers revolt occurred in California where the term "suburban sprawl" was coined.

Meanwhile, Californians who live in $100,000 homes, own new cars and have their psyches stretched by high-priced gurus also complain about their inability to influence local policies. Many of them voted for the Jarvis Amendment to protest "big government", but as Richard Nathan of the Brookings Institution observes, Proposition 13 may mean that Californians will become *more* independent upon public officials and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

It is against the backdrop of these concerns that the experiences of neighborhood groups in urban pressure-cookers like Newark and Baltimore should be studied.

The neighborhoods movement is a response to the centralization of political and economic power peculiar to advanced industrial societies. Through grassroots groups, citizens who are neither well-connected politically not economically privileged are seeking to gain access to centers of power. Some of them have been successful. In the 1960s unbanologists predicted that Newark's North Ward and much of Southeast Baltimore was ripe for the bulldozer. Today both communities thrive largely because of enterprising self-help programs. The success of these and other community conservation programs in many cities has also demonstrated that local people can often define their problems better than outside "experts" and that they can play a vital role in the design and implementation of crime, housing and economic programs.

The neighborhood movement's experiences suggest that with modest government support for training, community groups can reduce government's role to fostering self-help and voluntarism rather than trying to solve all problems. Public-private partnerships can attack the sources of community decay. So far, efforts to build such partnerships have been restricted to center-cities, but the

Continued on page 3

Jacqueline's Boutique
☆☆☆☆
25 E. Cross St.
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mi
483-8150
Gently Used
Women's Clothes
10-5 Tue. - Fri.
10 - 4 Sat.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

SALOON
Aubree's
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
Burgers-Booze-Billards

Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDLECRAFT FRAMING OF OBJECTS ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

When In Doubt, Inc.
CARDS AND GIFTS
23 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-1448
in historic Depot Town
10-6 Mon. thru Fri., 10-5 Sat.

Continued from page 2

approach is relevant to suburban and rural communities throughout the U.S. where residents want to reduce both government and taxes.

In addition, by conserving residential communities we can save enormous amounts of money. It costs far less to maintain homes, commercial structures, streets and utility hook-ups already in place than to build new ones. This explains why public officials and businessmen-who apply economic criteria to measure success-are demonstrating a new interest in neighborhoods. Unfortunately, most of them continue to ignore the importance of maintaining residential neighborhoods as vital "social systems." Anything preceded by the word "social" is deemed abstract and unrelated to the "real world of dollars and cents."

But community groups perform many critical functions-caring for the young and old, for example-that must be financed through taxes if neighborhood institutions atrophy.

Grossroots groups reduce citizen alienation, promote more effective public programs and help conserve or revitalize communities at a savings to consumers and taxpayers. That's why neighborhoods should be the keysone of domestic policy.

Adapted from The Competitive Edge, *the newsletter of the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. Contact the group at P.O. Box 33279, Washington, D.C. 20033.*

Dear Depot Town,

Thanks so much for ringing bells for us in the cold at Farmer's Market.

Your kindness assisted us in helping 970 families with food, clothing and toys this Christmas season.

May God bless you in the coming year!

Sincerely,
Constance Bridge
Captain, the Salvation Army

OLD TIME NEIGHBORLINESS PAYS OFF

THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

DEPOT TOWN MERCHANTS COMMITTEE

HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN FOUNDATION

Get in on the ACTION: The DTA CABOOSE, the Freight House and the entire district await your creativity!

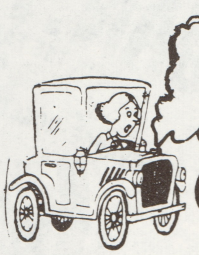
Write:
DTA.
The Caboose 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Mi 48197

D.T.A. Memberships:

Associate	$10
Regular	$25
Sustaining	$100

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Heritage Jazz Competition
Winter Jazz Series
Frog Island Jazz Festival
Boomer Days
The Depot Town Rag
Victorian Holiday
Steam Train Excursion
Children's Halloween Party
The Great Train Race
KIDSART
Holiday Artists' Market
Insurance Plans
Professor Malarkey
100 Year Old Caboose

DEPOT TOWN: Firmly rooted in the past --with a clear view forward.



CITY RADIATOR
11 E. CROSS
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
483-2248

Depot Town Rag

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.
Rex Richie, president
(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)
Annual dues:

Associate member	$10
Regular member	$25
Sustaining member	$100

483-0339 Depot Town

Standard Printing Co,
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Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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Located in historic Depot Town
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483-1035

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
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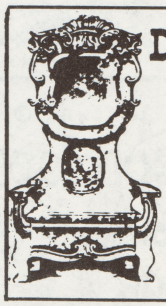
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

BIG BOB'S
Magazine & Fantasy Emporium
COMIC BOOKS -MAGAZINES - PAPER BACKS
50 E. CROSS • 485-4930
YPSILANTI, MI 48197



DEPOT EXCHANGE
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Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780
Furniture Stripping
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in historic Depot Town

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307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan
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ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan

Rosemary's Corner
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
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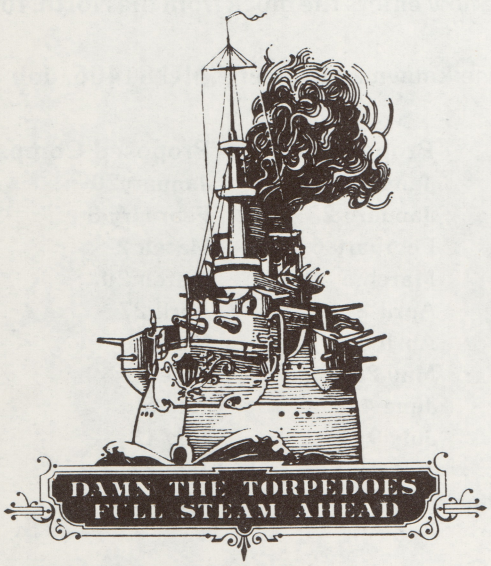
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994



DTA 19 January 1984

In president Ritchie's absence, Vice President John Waite called the meeting to order at 7:35 in a cold caboose and promptly accepted an invitation to hold the rest of the meeting at ROSEMARY'S CORNER. There was immediate consensus.

December minutes were read and accepted.

$$$$-the jazz concession has not yet been transferred into the Association's general account but should be "switched" upon Rex's return. $102.97 current balance, with RAG advertising payments forthcoming.

Ne Memberships must still br processed

NEW Memberships must still be processed by Sally Richie before entering the treasury.

DTA - Eric Ward reported on the January 9th open public hearing for a Downtown Development Authority which was tabled by City Council before their decision could be made. Residential and two commercial properties requested exemption from the district. Two others are supposed to have come up since the process was tabled. Should Council decide on the DDA with information gained after the public hearing? City Hall's Emmanuel and Lupi will redraw the boundaries for Council's February 6th session. With passage, the appointments to the DDA will be made by the Mayor. Eric Ward was directed to monitor the process at City Hall.

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PIZZA & SUBS
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and HEATING, INC.
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WEMU AWARD is being framed at River Art Works.

JAZZ - A.F. Smith brought the Frog Island electrical line up to City specifications for $57.11, well under the amount predicted. The January concert grossed $4000. $600 worth of steel has purchased for the construction of a new stage and awaits design, wood, and volunteer constructors.

RAG REPORT - $199.98 from 1983's ads were paid. $325.00 is still outstanding. 3 sizes of ads are available and will sponsor the entire cost of publication for 1984. The February issue will be smaller than usual, due to late ad payments.

STREET LIGHTS - which is better: the present war-of-the-worlds style or the Edison replicas of bastard mansard street light fixtures? Can we afford a third option: authentic, antique lights with extra costs for installation, maintenance and sidewalk replacement? Much discussion.

DETOUR -Norm Lawson says the City will pay up to $500 for sign posts and acting Chief Dan Heliker will decide upon placement of signs. Merchants will pay for the sign materials. McKeever, Dodd and others will paint them once the locations and contents are decided.

TROLLS - a bridge inhabitant has been evicted by construction crews and seeks temporary refuge in the district. Merchants plan to exploit this situation to the benefit of the business climate and good of the neighborhood.

INSURANCE - Our liability carrier will be paid ASAP, most likely as jazz profits accrue.

CERTIFICATION - The Foundation's Eric Ward will help to certify historic buildings for the district's property owners.

BEST YET AWARDS: To the SIDETRACk, DEPOT EXCHANGE, ARTRAIN BUILDING, PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC, RIVER ART WORKS and HON'S FLOWERS for the best continuously cleaned sidewalk this winter, and to Dave Loomis and company for so ably running the Jazz/Bar concession in Richie's absence.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARDS: To Sally and Rex Richie for deserting our Michigan Winter for warmer climes in the month of January and not even sending us a card, and to those few businesses which still exhibit last year's Christmas decorations.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 16, will again be held in ROSEMARY'S CORNER and coffee will be served.

ADJOURNED: 9:25 pm.

Troll Tales Told

Although sentimentalists mourned the destruction of the historic Cross Street Bridge, few anticipated the problems which might arise from displacing a long-time resident of that structure. Aficianadoes of bridge fables and customs are well aware that any bridge worthy of historic significance is also usually the repository of legend and lore including attendant witches, elves, fairies and goblins. The Cross Street Bridge, as many have known since the Nineteenth Century, is the home of a descendant of the nemesis of the Billy Goats Gruff. Few have seen the actual visage of CSB's resident troll, but almost everyone in the district is familiar with the results of his deviltry.

Trolls, rather than seeking socially acceptable outlets for their malaise and boredom due to living in such uncomfortable quarters, will often vent their anger on unsuspecting and undeserving neighbors and passersby.

Long time residentsof Our Town should easily recall the many unfortunate pranks and problems caused by Our Troll. Historians assign the 1850's separation of east and west Ypsilanti to the trolls orneriness. Even that unfortunate person who jumped to a would-be suicide last year has stated that only the troll's evil influence and perverse prankishness convinced him that a dive into a foot-and-a half deep Huron River might bring on the hoped-for fatal result. Such is the style of troll ill-humor.

Other tribulations attributed to our troll include the Heritage Festival Blackout of 1983, the demise of the Hudson Motorcar dealership, the cancellation of rail commuter service to Detroit, graffiti on alley walls, frozen water pipes, a comprehensive signage plan for the city and the splattering of green paint on the Thompson Block.

Those tricky bumps in the new sidewalks however, are not the product of Our Troll. A former City Manager, known for his "bricks and mortar" approach to municipal government, has some trollish tendencies, himself.

Trollish behavior, often described as churlishness, is not unknown to anyone who has argued a point at a meeting of the Depot Town Association and such activity is easily recognizable and well-known up and down the street. Perhaps it was a bit of themselves that some of our neighbors recognized in this resident's personality which caused them to soeasily identify with the p light of being kicked out of his habitation.

Trolls are known for their crankiness and, at the same time, their loyalty. Not

exactly pleasant, their warped little personalities are predictably irrascable. In an age when the psyche of many of us can be called as"up and down as a ten-cent yo yo", a troll's continuous bad humor can be a settling, if not exactly happy, influence. It's something you can count on.

With that regularity in mind, a group of Depot Town shopkeepers have endeavored to provide a home for this troll until all that unsettling mess at the bridge is finished. "SAVE THE TROLL", they cry, and observant shoppers are promised great rewards for spotting Our Troll (name still unknown) in any of the commercial establishments on Cross and River Streets. Look for him among DROLL greeting cards or with your morning breakfast T-ROLLS.

Add to the Troll Lore yourself. Such neighborhood gossip should flow at least as easily as news of stop-work orders or muffler shop mergers. Treat this exciting new legend with all the gusto of stories of Historic District Ordinance violations and the "Save the Troll" campaign will soon be as popular a pastime as the Ontario Lottery. Meanwhile, watch for the troll's appearance and disappearance on the block these next 178 working days.

and everything nice

RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS
27 EAST CROSS

CSB UPDATE...(Cross Street Bridge)

City Hall reports that the bridge contractors will keep pedestrian traffic open all through the construction period without detouring onto adjacent streets. A temporary pedestrian walkway is being installed prior to construction of the new bridge.

Detour signs are in place and traffic now enters the block from the North, the East and the South.

PROGRESS SCHEDULE (otherwise known as Project # MU 81406, Job # 21632A)

Item of work	Proposed start	Proposed Comp.
Mobilization and traffic control	January 16	January20
Construct pedestrian walkway	January 23	February 3
Remove existing structure	February 6	March 2
Cofferdams, excavate drive pile	March 5	March 20
Pier footings, columns, caps	April 2	April 27
Abutment footings and walls	April 30	May 25
Erect beams, stress and grout	May 28	June 1
Handrail and deck walkways	June 4	July 6
Concrete deck surfacing	July 9	July 13
Grading drainage and paving	July 13	July 27
Site work, landscaping and de-mobilization	July 30	November 16

WCA Washtenaw Council for the Arts

Association Joins Arts Council

As jazz entrepreneurs, the Depot Town Association, Inc. has joined with 53 other arts-oriented groups in the county as members of the Washtenaw Council for the Arts, a subsidiary of the Michigan Council for the Arts. Ann Arbor's ECLIPSE JAZZ is probably the only other mostly-promotional group among those many members. Other groups include the Gamelon Society, Ars Musica, the Ann Arbor Civic Theartre and representative groups and individuals from music, theatre, dance and the visual arts.

WCA member services include county-wide ticket sales, grant opportunities, public relations assistance, an audience development program and a monthly newsletter. WCA shares office space in the newly rehabbed factory on Ann Arbor's West Washington Street with PERFORMANCE NETWORK and a variety of art studios and workspaces. Kathleen Slater, WCA's executive director, invited all members to attend the next monthly meeting. WCA's February 2-4 program, in conjunction with Ann Arbor Art Association was an "Artists' Business & Marketing Seminar", held in the Michigan Union.

In May the Arts Council will meet in Depot Town's Freight House, hosted by the DTA, The Ypsilanti Players and the Ypsilanti Area Dancers, also members of the Council.

DEPOT TOWN AND WEMU EASTERN MICH. UNIVERSITY
YPSILANTI MICHIGAN
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THE KATALENIC-KWEK 18 Piece BIG BAND

SATURDAY JAN. 14TH AT 8 P.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 7
IN THE FARMERS' MARKET BUILDING • YPSILANTI
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ADVANCE TICKETS $6 $6.50 AT THE DOOR

GET YOUR TICKETS AT:
• ALL DEPOT TOWN MERCHANTS
• SCHOOL KIDS RECORDS IN ANN ARBOR
• HUCKLEBERRY PARTY STORE YPSILANTI
• TOMS' PARTY STORE ON THE EMU CAMPUS
• WEMU RADIO • 426 KING HALL EMU CAMPUS, YPSILANTI

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M-F 10-7
Sat. 9-6

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FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
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